ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF MINORITY WELFARE PROGRAMMES: A STUDY OF VIJAYAPURA DISTRICT

SYNOPTIC NOTE OF THE REASEARCH WORK

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Research Scholar

Parveenkausar Yalagi

Research Guide

Prof.D.M.Madari

Professor and Chairman

Department of Economics,

Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University Vijayapura

Department of Studies in Economics,

Karnataka State Akkamahadevi Women's University Vijayapura

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1. Introduction

In Common Parlance, the expression “Minority” means a group comprising less than half of the Population and differing from others, especially the Predominant section, in race, religion, tradition, Culture and Language etc. The Oxford Dictionary defines “Minority” as a smaller number or part; a number or a part representing less than half of the whole; a relatively small group of people, differing from others in race, religion, language or political persuasion”. A special Sub-Committee on the Protection of Minority Rights appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Commission in 1946 defined the “Minority” as those “non-dominant group in a population which Possess a wish to preserve stable ethnic, religious and linguistic traditions or characteristics markedly different from those of the rest of Population”. As regards religious minorities at the National Level in India, all those who profess a religion other than Hindu are considered minorities since over 80 percent population of the country professes Hindu religion. At the national level, Muslims are the Christians (2.34 percent) and Sikhs (1.9 percent); while all the other religious groups are still smaller. As regards linguistic minorities, there is no majority at the national level and the Minority status is to be essentially decided at the State/Union Territory level.

The Religious Minority population as of 2001 census is 82, 93,576 which forms 15.69% and according to the 2011 census it has increased to 96.01 lakhs which forms 16.28% of the total population of Karnataka. The people belonging to Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist and Parsi communities come under Minority Community. It was observed that majority of the minority community was reeling below the poverty line and their economic and social status is sympathetic, and their improvement in status is hidden in the all-round development.

In order to help in the development of the minority community in their economic and social status the In order to help in the development of the minority community in their economic and social status the task was entrusted to the then Karnataka Backward classes development Corporation (Renamed as D.Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation). However it was noticed by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Karnataka Late Shri. Rama Krishna Hegde that the development schemes implemented through KBCDC has not shown much impact on the Minority Community and his concern for development of Minority Community in improving their status, socially, economically and to bring them into the main stream along with

other development communities under his leadership the state government has government has established a separate Corporation viz., Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation on 07.02.1986 with an objective of improving the status of Minority Community Socially Economically and Educationally. Similarly, Directorate of minorities was carved out of Directorate of Backward Classes and created in the year 1999-2000 to ensure a more focus approach towards issues relating to the notified Minority Communities, namely Muslim, Christians, Jains, Buddhist, Sikhs and Parsis. The Directorate working with vision to enable all the Minority Community people to lead a productive life with equal opportunities in the field of Socio, Economic and Education etc. The mandate of the Directorate includes Planning Co-ordination, Evaluation and Implement development programmes for the benefit of the Minority Community. The main functions of the department are introduce schemes to promote accelerated socio economic development of Minorities, introduce educational concessions for students, implement scheme for development of Women and Children, providing training and employment opportunities, there by tackling the problems of economic backwardness among the Minorities. The Directorate is the nodal agency of the schemes being implemented by the State and Central Government Minority Welfare Department. The Directorate is located in Bangalore.

District Minority Welfare Offices attached to all District Deputy Commissioner (D.C) offices in Karnataka. These offices constituted for co-ordinating the Minority welfare activities in each District with a sanctioned strength of 6Officers/staff.

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1.1 Basic Characteristics of Minority Groups

The six basic characteristics of minority groups are as follows:

1. Physical and cultural traits

2. Unequal treatment

3. Ascribed status

4. Solidarity

5. In-group marriage

6. Subordination.

1. Physical and cultural traits:

Members of a minority group share some physical and cultural characteristics that distinguish them from the dominant (majority) group. Each society has its arbitrary standards for determining which characteristics are most important in defining dominant and minority group. Physical characteristics such as skin colour are commonly called racial. Cultural (ethnic) distinctions are rarely neutral and commonly associated with antagonism between groups.

2. Unequal treatment:

Members of a minority group experience unequal treatment. They are usually physically and socially isolated from the dominant (majority) community. For example, the management of a

community hostel or an apartment complex (or building) may refuse to rent members of a minority community.

For example, in India, it is often accused that the members of minority groups (Muslims or Christians) are refused accommodation—renting or selling flats in the buildings managed or owned by the members of dominant group. Not only this, in villages and small towns, it is seen that the members of minority groups are forced to live in separate geographical localities. Physical segregation ultimately leads to social segregation.

3. Ascribed status:

Membership in a dominant (or minority) group is not voluntary. People are born into the group. Thus, race, gender, ethnicity and religion are considered ascribed statuses.

4. Solidarity:

Minority group members have a strong sense of group solidarity. This sense of solidarity is the outcome of prejudice and discrimination experienced by the minority group members. It is based on 'in-group consciousness' which in turn gives rise to the feeling of 'us' versus 'them' or 'i' versus 'they'.

It heightens feelings of common loyalty and interests. W.G. Sumner, in his book Folkways (1906), noted that individuals make distinctions between members of their own group called 'in-group' and everyone else 'out-group'.

5. In-group marriage:

Members of a minority group generally marry within their own group in order to keep alive their cultural distinctiveness and to maintain group solidarity. Parsis, in India, and members of other minority groups (Muslims or Christians) seldom marry in other groups.

6. Subordination:

The minority is subordinate to the dominant (majority) in the distribution of power and privileges in a society. This is the key characteristic of a minority group. The members of minority groups have relatively low power, prestige and economic position in a society's system of social

stratification. Not only this, they have to observe the norms, values, cultural patterns and laws of the majority (dominant) group.

1.2 Constitutional Safeguards for religious and linguistic minorities of India

The Constitution of India uses the term ‘minority /minorities in four of its Articles namely, Articles 29(1), 30, 350-A and 350-B. But it neither defines the term minority or minorities nor delineates criteria for determing minority. In order to bring a case under article 29 and 30 of the constitution, a community has first to establish its character as linguistic , Scriptural, cultural , or religious minority.

1.3 Separate Domain of Minority Rights

The Minority Rights provided in the Constitution which fall in the category of 'Separate Domain' are as under:- .

I. Right of 'any section of the citizens' to 'conserve' its 'distinct language, script culture'; [Article 29(1)]

ii. Restriction denial of admission to any citizen, to any educational institution maintained or aided by the State, 'on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language or any of them'; [Article 29(2)]

iii. Right of *all* Religious and Linguistic Minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice; [A11icle 30(1)]

iv. Freedom of Minority-managed educational institutions from discrimination in the matter of receiving aid from the State;[Article30(2)]

V. special provision relating to the language spoken by a section .of the population of any State;[Article 347]

VI Provision for facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage;[Article 350 A]

VII. Provision for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities and his duties· and [Article 350 B]

viii. Sikh community's right of 'wearing and carrying
Kirpans.

1.4 Karnataka Minority Development Corporation

The population of religious minorities as per 2011 Census is about 96,00,475 which forms 15.92% of the total population of Karnataka. People belonging to Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh and Parsi communities come under religious minorities. It was observed that majority of the minority community was reeling below the poverty line and their economic and social status is symathetic and in order to help in the development of minority community in their economic and social status, the task was entrusted to the then Karnataka Backward Classes Development Corporation.

Karnataka Backward Classes Development Corporation (renamed as D.DevarajUrs Backward Classes Development Corporation) had been extending loan facilities to religious minorities.. During the tenure of Late Sri Ramakrishna Hegde, the then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, it was observed that the development schemes implemented through KBCDC had not significantly impacted on the minority community and with the concern of development of minority community by improving their status socially and economically and to bring them into the main stream along with other development communities under the leadership of Late Ramakrishna Hegde, the then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, the Government of Karnataka has established a separate Corporation viz. Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation on 07.02.1986 with an objective of improving the status of minority community socially, educationally and economically.

Objective of the Organisation:

The main objective of the Corporation is to extend loan facility to the poorest of the poor among minorities so as to enable them to become self-reliant and also to provide social justice, infrastructure, education and employment.

Structure of the Organisation:

Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation is a Government of Karnataka Undertaking Corporation and established under the Companies Act 1956. As on today, the authorised share capital of the Corporation is Rs.600.00 Crores. The Corporation is now functioning under the supervision of Minorities Welfare Department of the Government of Karnataka. The Registered Office of the Corporation is based at Bangalore and it has its District Offices in all District Headquarters of the State. The Chairman of the Board of Directors is the executive head and the Managing Director is the administrative head. The Corporation is entrusted with the job of development of minority's status socially, educationally and economically through the Government sponsored Schemes which are implemented through its District Offices located at all District Headquarters of Karnataka.

Programmes of the Corporation

1. 'Arivu' Education Loan Scheme
2. Micro (Individual) Covid-19 Loan Scheme
3. Micro Loan scheme (For Self-Help Groups)
4. Ganga Kalyana Scheme
5. Taxi / Goods / Passenger Auto purchase subsidy Scheme
6. 'Shramashakti' Loan Scheme

2. Review of Literature

1. Majid A (2017) This article examines the working of secularism in India. A secular state can be described as a state that does not officially identify with any religion. It treats all citizens as equal irrespective of religion. In a secular form of government, no state promotes the religion or

any religious group, and also not interferes in religious affairs. A secular state does not limit itself with the social welfare of only one religion. No one will ever dispute the notion that Indians (especially Hindus) have two faces. One that depicts its leader Gandhi and other that represents Chanakya. There are numerous examples where Hindu culture is described as Indian Culture. No modern secular democracy other then India experienced multiple, state sponsored pogroms – that of Sikh in 1984, and of Muslims in 1992, 2002. In India almost all minorities (especially Muslims) recall with despair and despondence how it has been constitutionally pushed to the wall.

2. Dohrty A (2017) Participation in sporting, cultural and community activities can have significant emotional, physical and social benefits for children. A small literature now exists exploring the factors that promote or inhibit children's participation in these activities. This paper adds to the literature using a large child-based dataset collected in Ireland, the Growing Up in Ireland dataset. The paper investigates the role of minority status as a barrier to child participation in a range of activities. Minority status in this paper is characterised as being non-Irish born, non-Roman Catholic, or having a family member in receipt of some form of social welfare. The association between such characteristics and child participation in sporting, cultural and community activities is examined using multivariate analyses. The results highlight that these factors are associated with lower participation in structured activities though the impact varies according to activity and minority grouping. The implications of the findings for policy are discussed.

3. Sherman N (2018) The article investigates the dimensions of life satisfaction of immigrant and ethnic minorities comparing them with the majority population. It constructs a theoretical framework, taking into account both pecuniary and non-pecuniary dimensions of welfare. This study is based on the data of the Social Survey, administered by the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics. Immigrants in this study are regarded as a migrant minority and Israeli-born Arab citizens as an ethnic minority. The results reveal significant life satisfaction gaps between the groups, which can be partially explained by the value of work *per se* and the value of leisure activities. Applying the Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition technique, the study revealed that the gap in life satisfaction could be attributed both to the differences in pecuniary and non-pecuniary

resources for each group, and to different returns on resources. Policy targeted on increasing the economic possibilities of minority groups would decrease the life satisfaction gaps.

4. Gersbach H (2018) The author proposes a two-round process called minority voting to allocate public projects in a polity. In the first round, a society decides by a simple majority decision whether to provide the public project. If the proposal in the first round is rejected, the process ends. Otherwise the process continues, but only the members of the minority keep agenda and voting rights for the second round, in which the financing scheme is determined. In the second round, the unanimity rule or the simple majority rule is applied.

5. Dustmaan C (2019) Attitudes of ethnic majority populations towards other communities is a potentially important determinant of social exclusion and welfare of ethnic minorities. The suggestion that negative attitudes towards minorities may be affected by the ethnic composition of the locality in which individuals live has often been made and empirically investigated. We point to a potential for bias in simple estimates of ethnic context effects if individual location decisions are driven partly by attitudinal factors. We also suggest an instrumental variables procedure for overcoming such bias in data with appropriate spatial information. Our results suggest that such a correction may be important.

3. Need of the Study

The present study chosen for research has its own importance and Significance. It was observed that majority of the minority community was reeling below the poverty line and their Economic and Social Status is sympathetic and their improvement in status is hidden in the all-round development. In order to help in the development of the minority community the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation is improving their status socially and economically. Apart from this it is functioning very well for the sack of all the minority community people to lead a productive life with equal opportunities.

4. Statement of the Study

The Govt of Karnataka has implemented several schemes and programmes to improve the economic status of backward communities (including religious minorities) to render social justice and with a prime aim of bringing them into to the main stream of the society; "Karnataka Backward Classes and Minorities Development Corporation" was established on 28.10.1977 by Late D. Devaraj Urs, the then Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Subsequently, Late Ramakrishna Hegde, the then Chief Minister of Karnataka, established "Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation" on 07.02.1986 by exclusively for the improvement of socio-economic and educational status and to render social justice to the religious minorities of the Status viz., Muslims, Christians, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs and Parsis. Initially, share capital of Rs.5.00 Crore was provided to the Corporation.

The then Chief Minister Sri.B.S.Yadiyurappa has increased the share capital of the corporation to 150 crores. Along with Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation is providing schemes and programmes for the welfare of minorities to lead an efficient life with equal opportunities ensuring "Socio-Economic, Justice and equality, education and to promote their own literature, culture, peace and harmony".

It is in this context the present study is entitled as **"Economic Evaluation of Minority Welfare Programmes: A Study of Vijayapura District".**

5. Objectives

1. To Understand the Minority Welfare Programmes implemented by KMDC IN India.

2. To Study the Functions of the Karnataka Minority Development Corporation.

3. To Examine the Status of Minorities in India.

4. To Evaluate the Performance of Self-employment Programmes implemented by KMDC

5. To analyse the Socio-economic Conditions of Minorities in Vijayapura District.

6. To Offer Suggestions for effective Implementation of Self-Employment Programmes.

6. Hypothesis

H_{01}: There is no significant change in Economic Status of Minorities in India.

H_{02}: Self-employment Programmes have significantly benefited minorities in Vijayapura District.

7. Methodology:

For the present work, the following methodology is adopted.

7.1 Area and Period of Study:

Vijayapura District is chosen as the area of study, the study will be conducted during the academic year 2004-2019.

7.2 Sampling:

For the present research work, Total Three Hundred Thirty Five beneficiaries have been Selected from various three Scheme of KMDC of Vijayapura i.e., Vijayapura, Indi, Muddebihal, Sindagi and B.Bagewadi have identified.

7.3 Sample Size

In the present study "Proportionate Random Sampling" technique is used by the research investigator. The investigator have selected 243 beneficieries out of total sample.

7.4 Data Collection:

For the purpose of data collection both primary and secondary sources were utilized. A suitable questionnaire was developed to generate primary data. Questions were asked pertaining to Beneficiaries of Minority Welfare Programmes with usefulness, effectiveness and need. The questionnaire was designed to get personal information, educational information, employment information, Self-employment Programme information and impact and Development by

programmes from respondents of Self-employment Programme. Secondary data was collected using published reports, books, research papers, articles, websites and Vijayapura District at a Glance.

7.5 Analysis of Data:

Data will be collected through the questionnaire was tabulated and analyzed using the simple statistical tools such as percentage, ratio and appropriate, suitable tool i.e. chi-square test and T-test were used for the data analysis. Tables, charts and graphs were also used for easy understanding of data in the present research work.

8. Limitations of the Study

1. The present study covers only Vijayapura district

2. The Study is limited to Minorities and their schemes and Programmes of Karnataka Minority Development Corporation

3. The Study is limited to the period of 2004-2019

4. The Information of the respondents may not be accurate of fullest possible extent due to their memory and time factor.

9. Chapter Scheme of the Study

Chapter 1: Research Design

Chapter 2: Review of Research

Chapter 3: Performance of Welfare Programmes of Minorities in India and Karnataka

Chapter 4: Profile of Vijayapura District

Chapter 5: Impact of Self-employment Programmes among Minorities: An empirical Study in Vijayapura District.

Chapter 6: Major Findings and Suggestions.

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